

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A pallet comprising:
2 a top deck member having an upper surface, and a lower surface defined by a
3 plurality of first cross-rib members; and
4 a bottom deck member having an upper portion and a plurality of runners
5 extending downwardly from the upper portion in a unitary construction, the upper
6 portion having an upper surface defined by a plurality of second cross-rib members
7 corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members and attached thereto to securely
8 attach the top deck and bottom deck to each other, the runners extending transversely
9 across the pallet in a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the
10 runners further having a plurality of upright members and support members extending
11 between the upright members and integrally formed therewith in a unitary
12 construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the
13 upper surface of the bottom deck to the lower surface of the runners.

1 2. The pallet of claim 1, wherein the support member has an upper support surface
2 and a lower support surface, wherein one of the upper support and lower support
3 surfaces is defined by a plurality of rib members.

1 3. The pallet of claim 2, wherein the lower support surface is defined by a plurality
2 of rib members.

1 4. The pallet of claim 1, wherein the first and second cross-rib members are
2 attached to each other by a welding process.

1 5. The pallet of claim 1, wherein the bottom surfaces of the upright members and
2 support members are co-planar.

1 6. The pallet of claim 1, further comprising at least one reinforcement member
2 extending between the top deck and bottom deck.

1 7. The pallet of claim 7, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the top deck
2 and the upper surface of the bottom deck have at least one channel formed therein for
3 receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

1 8. A pallet comprising:

2 a first deck member having an upper surface arranged for receiving a load
3 thereupon, and a lower surface having a first plurality of cross-ribs; and

4 a second deck member having a horizontally disposed upper portion with a
5 lower surface, and an upper surface defined by a second plurality of cross-ribs
6 corresponding generally to and mating with the first plurality of cross-ribs, the second
7 deck further having a lower portion integrally formed with the upper portion to form
8 a unitary construction therewith, the lower portion extending downwardly from the
9 upper portion and defined by a plurality of generally parallel runners for supporting
10 the pallet, the runners spaced apart from each other to define openings therebetween,
11 each runner having a plurality of post members and at least one support member
12 extending between the bottom of the post members for interconnecting the posts
13 members in a unitary construction.

1 9. The pallet of claim 8, wherein the support member has an upper support surface
2 and a lower support surface, wherein one of the upper support and lower support
3 surfaces is defined by a plurality of rib members.

1 10. The pallet of claim 9, wherein the lower support surface is defined by a plurality
2 of rib members.

1 11. The pallet of claim 8, wherein the first and second plurality of cross-ribs are
2 attached by a welding process.

1 12. The pallet of claim 8, wherein the bottom surfaces of the post members and
2 support members are co-planar.

1 13. The pallet of claim 8, further comprising at least one reinforcement member
2 extending between the first deck and second deck.

1 14. The pallet of claim 13, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the first
2 deck and the upper surface of the second deck have at least one channel formed
3 therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

1 15. A pallet assembly comprising:

2 an upper deck portion having a first mating cross-ribbed surface, and a load
3 surface opposite the first mating ribbed surface; and

4 a lower deck portion having a second mating ribbed surface defined by a
5 plurality of rib members, a lower surface opposite the second mating ribbed surface,
6 and a plurality of generally parallel legs extending downwardly from the lower surface
7 to form a unitary construction therewith, the legs spaced apart from each other to
8 define pallet openings therebetween, the legs having at least one post member within
9 which some of the plurality of rib members extend to a bottom surface of the at least
10 one post member, and a foot portion extending across a bottom of the at least one post
11 member and forming a unitary construction therewith, wherein the first and second
12 mating ribbed surfaces are mounted to each other for securing the upper deck portion
13 and lower deck portion together.

1 16. The pallet of claim 15, wherein the foot portion has a foot upper surface and
2 a foot lower surface, wherein one of the foot upper and foot lower surfaces includes
3 a plurality of foot rib members.

1 17. The pallet of claim 14, wherein one of the first and second mating ribbed
2 surfaces has a locating member projecting therefrom, and the other of the first and
3 second mating ribbed surfaces has a recess formed therein for receiving the locating
4 member therein to aid in aligning the upper and lower decks.

1 18. The pallet of claim 15, wherein the first and second mating ribbed surfaces are
2 attached by a welding process.

1 19. The pallet of claim 15, further comprising at least one reinforcement member
2 extending between the upper deck portion and lower deck portion.

1 20. The pallet of claim 15, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the upper
2 deck portion and the upper surface of the lower deck portion have at least one channel
3 formed therein for receiving a reinforcement member therein.

1 21. A pallet for supporting goods comprising:

2 a top deck member having an upper surface upon which said goods are
3 supported, and a lower surface having a plurality of first cross-rib members forming
4 first partial box-beam sections; and

5 a bottom deck member having an upper surface having a plurality of second
6 cross-rib members forming second partial box beam sections and corresponding
7 generally to the first cross-rib members, the first and second cross-rib members
8 attached to form box-beam sections between the top deck and bottom deck, the bottom
9 deck member further including a plurality of runners projecting downwardly from the
10 upper surface in a unitary construction and extending transversely across the pallet in
11 a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the runners further having
12 a plurality of upright members and support members extending between the upright
13 members and integrally formed therewith in a unitary construction, wherein the
14 plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the upper surface of the bottom
15 deck to the lower surface of the runners.

1 22. The pallet of claim 21, wherein the plurality of first and second cross-rib
2 members are attached by a welding process.

1 23. The pallet of claim 21, further comprising at least one reinforcement member
2 extending between the top deck and bottom deck.

1 24. The pallet of claim 23, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the upper
2 deck portion and the upper surface of the lower deck portion have at least one channel
3 formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

- 1 25. A pallet:
2 a first deck member having first mating surface having a plurality of first
3 cross-rib members forming first partial box-beam sections; and
4 a second deck member having a second mating surface having a plurality of
5 second cross-rib members forming second partial box beam sections and
6 corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members, the first and second mating
7 surfaces attached to form box-beam sections between the first deck member and
8 second deck member, the second deck member further including a plurality of runners
9 projecting downwardly from the second mating surface in a unitary construction and
10 extending transversely across the second deck member in a generally parallel
11 orientation, the runners further having a plurality of post members and support
12 members extending between the post members and integrally formed therewith in a
13 unitary construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend
14 between the second mating surface and a lower portion of the runners.